Equal Rights

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Should Married Women Work?

Equal Rights

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OBJECT OF THE WOMAN'S PARTY

The object of this organization shall be to secure for women complete equality with men under the law and in all human relationships.

THE LUCRETIA MOTT AMENDMENT

"Men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction."

"Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

[Senate Joint Resolution Number 52]
[House Joint Resolution Number 55]
Introduced in the Senate June 4, 1929, by Senator Gerald P. Nye, North Dakota.
Introduced in the House April 25, 1929, by Representative Frederick W. Magrady, Pennsylvania.

Women Are People

As an aftermath of the attempt of Assemblyman Dan Emmet to prohibit married women in California from holding State jobs, the California Branch of the National Woman's Party, under the leadership of Mrs. William Kent, has secured the introduction into the State Legislature of a straightout Equal Rights amendment. The wave of sentiment created by the feeling that the Emmet attack upon married women was unjustified will push the Feminist amendment over in both houses of the legislature in the opinion of its sponsors.

The fairminded attitude which many Californians hold with regard to the equality of the sexes is well indicated by an editorial which appeared in the San Francisco *News* of March 11, under the caption, "Women Are People." We reprint the editorial in full as phrasing precisely our own point of view on the situation:

"Squelching of the bill, at Sacramento, to bar wives from employment in public service ends an agitation that at its best was an attempt to order back the waves of the sea instead of trying to regulate the tides.

"We don't mean to infer that men can regulate the tides, and neither do we believe that women could be forced back into an exclusively domestic life, even under a Utopian economic system that would give every father and husband a sufficient income to support daughters and wives in comfort.

"Certainly wives cannot be barred from employment so long as economic need forces them into the marketplace and the factory.

"Justice Holmes said in his birthday talk on Sunday that to live is to function. And how can we expect women to function in a city apartment equipped with all the latest aids to housekeeping, with an up-to-date grocery and delicatessen on the nearest corner and a department store not many blocks away?

"Women in the home got and kept their dignity by conducting home industries, from the weaving of cloth to the making of jams, pies and bread. Under an ideal economic set-up, with the male providing all that was needed, more women would doubtless have more children and be happier, and the race would benefit. But there would still be the problem of those who were not fitted by temperament for motherhood, and of the leisure time of mothers who had brought their children through the infancy stage.

"Women have won their right to be 'people,' and if men would return them to 'Kirche, Kinder and Küche,' they must offer something to compete with the economic independence and superior comfort opened to their wives and daughters by participation in business and industry."

Early English Business Women

THIS twentieth century of ours is supposed to be the age of women in business and professions, but business and professional women had their day in England in the eighteenth century also, according to Miss Pinchbeck's book, "Women Workers and the Industrial Revolution."

There was Mrs. Montague, famous for her wit and her London salons, who managed her husband's colliery business in the north of England and after his death in 1775, continued to run his business. She visited her agricultural tenants, improved her land and methods of its cultivation, and was a sort of guardian-angel to the four-score families she employed in the colliery.

Mrs. Baskerville, widow of a printer and letter-founder, carried on the business of letter-founding, and Margaret Murray of Chester was a busy engraver and copper-plate printer. Seeking new business, Miss Murray advertised, "Commissions from the country punctually answered."

Another Chester woman, Sarah Gorton, ran a business as saddler and capmaker, and the *Chester Chronicle's* file for 1775, contains advertisements inserted by women coopers, plumbers, soapmakers, and tallow chandlers.

Women also served as tailors, chimney sweeps, and in various other businesses. Old records show payments, in 1787, of nine pounds and one shilling to Sarah Lewis for glazing; fourteen shillings to Susannah White, a pumpmaker; and eighty-two pounds and twelve shillings to Mary Lear for delivering 1,525 "horse-loads" of coal. The overseers at Wrexham paid yearly accounts from 1790 to 1794 to "Widow Evans" for coffins and to Mrs. Price, a hatter.

Enterprising, hardworking, "modern" women, these eighteenth century English ancestors and predecessors of ours! We may still to advantage emulate their good example.

Joint Nationality Committee Holds Meeting

THE Inter-American Commission of Women participated recently in a conference of the Joint Nationality Committee, composed of two representatives of each of the principal international women's organizations, which was called following the action of the Council of the League of Nations in placing the question of the nationality of women on the agenda of the 1931 Assembly of the League, and in authorizing the creation of a commission of women to report on the question to the Assembly.

The Joint Nationality Commission, at its meeting on January 25, resolved to urge the associations represented on the Joint Nationality Committee to work for the postponement of all action on the Hague Nationality Convention by their respective governments until after the discussion of the nationality question by the 1931 Assembly.

Marta Vergara of Chile, representing with Alice Paul the Inter-American Commission at the conference, in commenting on the action of the Joint Nationality Committee, said:

"The action taken by the Joint Nationality Committee today in voting to begin a world-wide campaign for postponement of all action on The Hague Nationality Convention until after further discussion of the question of nationality in the next Assembly, means that the united strength of the women of the world is now arrayed in support of postponing all action on this convention. The murmur of discontent following the signing of the Nationality Convention at the Conference on Codification at The Hague last April has swelled into a mighty chorus encircling the world, protesting against the discriminations against women contained in this convention, and demanding the right of women to be consulted on this question which particularly concerns them. Their voice will not be stilled until all discriminations against women in the Nationality Convention have been removed."

Among the organizations represented at the conference and their representatives were:

The Inter-American Commission of Women—Alice Paul, Washington, U. S. A.; Marta Vergara, Santiago, Chile.

Equal Rights International—Dorothy Evans, Farnborough, England; Elizabeth van den Bosch, The Hague, Holland.

International Alliance of Societies for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship—Dr. Bakker van Bosse, The Hague, Holland; Nina Spiller, Geneva, Switzerland.

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom—Camille Drevet, Paris, France; Eugenie Meller, Budapest, Hungary.

World Union of Women for International Concord—Clara Guthrie d'Arcis, Geneva, Switzerland; C. Reusch, Geneva, Switzerland.

Crystal MacMillan of London presided over the jont nationalitly meeting, and Madame van der Schalk of The Hague acted as secretary.

The Work of the Woman's Party

Excerpts from an Address Delivered by Mrs. Harvey W. Wiley, Chairman of the National Council of the National Woman's Party, on March 12 before the New England Regional Conference of the National Woman's Party, held at the Copley Plaza Hotel, Boston, Mass., March 12-13

MY part in today's program is briefly to enumerate the activities of the National Woman's Party since it has been my honor to be its chairman.

I took office as chairman December 8, 1929, fifteen months ago, a long time it now seems.

During that time many things have transpired. I do not assume credit for these happenings, but enumerate them in order to refresh your memories.

To begin with, the convention of December, 1929, was a notable one. It was then we heard Miss Stevens' memorable report on the work of the Committee on International Relations and adopted the treaty drafted by the Nationality Committee of the Inter-American Commission of Women providing:

"That the contracting parties agree that from the going into effect of this treaty there shall be no restrictions based on sex in their law or practice relating to nationality."

It was then that we voted to affiliate with the Open Door International and endorsed the Equal Rights treaty drafted by Miss Paul and presented to the Sixth Pan-American Congress.

It was then a delegation went to the President asking him to see that our delegation to The Hague support the principle of no sex discrimination in the world code.

Sensing the fact that the battle for equality of nationality between men and women at the coming Hague conference in April would be largely won in this country, Miss Paul stressed the need for creating public sentiment in favor of the proposed treaty and began plans to arouse the attention of people everywhere to the unfairness of a world nationality code based on discriminations against women. Two years previously Miss Paul began the compilation of her stupendous work on nationality, comprising the laws on nationality from eighty-four countries, both in the original and in authorized translations. Dr. James Brown Scott called the work when completed an authority which "ought to be used as a text book by every university, every embassy, every ministry and every consulate in the world."

On December 8 the Council voted to recommend Miss Wold's appointment as plenipotentiary at The Hague.

Near Christmas in 1929, during the annual Cause and Cure of War convention, held in Washington, Miss Wold and I called on the presidents of the various large women's organizations represented, the W. C. T. U., the General Federation of Women's Clubs, the A. A. U. W., and Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, president of the convention. Each woman president was deeply impressed and valuable aid was secured to help influence the President toward instructing our delegation to The Hague to stand for a code impartial in its treatment of men and women.

A nationality leaflet was printed and under the able direction of Miss Mabel Vernon, executive secretary, thousands of letters, leaflets and resolutions were sent out to various clubs and groups of women all over the country.

In February, 1930, great excitement was felt over the splendid delegation to Havana from the Woman's Party to the first conference of the Inter-American Commission of Women held at the University of Havana. Besides Miss Doris Stevens, chairman, Miss Fannie Bunand-Sevastos, Miss Laura Berrien, Mrs. Wymond Bradbury, Miss Mary Powell and Mme. de Olivera Lima, all left Washington in February, taking along Miss Paul's book in seven thick typewritten volumes, including one volume of tables.

On February 28 Mrs. Ruth B. Shipley and Miss Emma Wold were appointed by the State Department, respectively, as delegate and technical advisor to the American delegation to the International Conference on the Codification of International Law and sailed the next day, March 1. Mrs. Hilles and Miss Riegel sailed a few days later to meet Miss Margaret Whittemore abroad. Miss Stevens left March 20, following a luncheon given in her honor by your chairman and a reception at Headquarters which was packed to the doors.

Events then transpired thick and fast which Mrs. Rogers will enumerate in detail leading up to that dramatic moment

in April when the leader of the American delegation, Mr. David Hunter Miller arose in the Riddersaal, drew himself up with great dignity and refused to agree to sign a treaty which contained discriminations against women. At that time it looked at if 40 other nations would sign but on April 12 the representatives of only thirty nations did actually affix their signatures. This denouement was another proof of Miss Paul's marvelous political sagacity and foresight. She had been preparing for this event for two year and the success of her plans is proved by the event.

THE next contest in which the National Woman's Party was engaged was the work to secure the passage of an amendment to the Cable law of 1922. Mr. Cable introduced a bill in February, 1930, to repeal the presumption of loss of citizenship by women through residence abroad after marriage to aliens. A hearing was held on this bill on March 5, 1930. Those who supported the bill in addition to the Woman's Party were the representatives of the National League of Women Voters, A. A. U. W., Federation of Business and Professional Women, National Council of Jewish Women, Home Economics Association, Y. W. C. A., and the American Federation of Labor.

The Cable bill passed the House April 21. The Senate Committee voted to report the bill favorably with 16 amendments having to do mostly with naturalization. On account of these amendments the passage of the bill was continually blocked in the Senate until June 27 when Senator Copeland withdrew his amendments. It passed the Senate June 30, the last day of the first session of the Seventy-first Congress.

We should also record the fine resolution introduced April 21 by Representative Hamilton Fish of New York, expressing approval of the action at The Hague and favoring an impartial nationality law for men and women. This resolution passed the House May 21.

The September 13, 1930, issue of Equal Rights was published as a Cable number. A frontispice of Representative Cable and five articles about him by Ruby Black, Miss Stevens, Dr. Scott, Miss Younger and Mrs. Hilles made a really splendid tribute to this even-minded statesman. I sent and bought fifty copies and had them sent to him and he was so pleased he ordered 1,000 copies for use as a campaign document.

A further Cable bill was introduced early in the second session of the Seventy-first Congress last December, by Representative Cable removing the final discriminations against women which he had not been able to remove during the first session of the Congress.

A hearing was called on this bill very suddenly on December 17. At this hearing, due to the uncertain attitude of the League of Women Voters, the bill was referred back to the Committee for further study. A second hearing was called January 23. At the hearing we had the amazing spectacle of the usual twelve women's organizations and the Federation of Labor all uniting with us in favor of H. R. 14684. This bill passed Congress on the last day of the session. By the passage of this bill, no woman in this country is deprived of her citizenship by marriage. This action of the Congress lives up to the high ideal of equality between men and women set up at The Hague.

We thought it best not to cable Miss Paul until the bill had been signed by the President. To our amazement a cablegram came from Miss Paul March 4, thanking all who had brought about this victory which will make the work easier next September in Geneva at the Assembly of the League of Nations. We conclude she read the news in the Paris *Herald*. I must give the main credit for this victory to Maud Younger and Burnita Matthews, who practically lived over at the Capitol for days, and to the publicity created by Muna Lee.

I must tell you also that the Cable bill narrowly missed being caught in the filibuster jam carried on by Senator Thomas in regard to oil.

ON January 6, 1931, we had the hearing on the Equal Rights amendment, copies of which are available for distribution. We defended the amendment. Those who spoke against were representatives of the—

1. National Women's Trade Union League;
2. Bureau of Women and Children, New York State Department of Labor;
3. National League of Women Voters;
4. Young Women's Christian Association;
5. American Federation of Labor;
6. American Federation of Teachers;
7. Home Economics Association;
8. General Federation of Women's Clubs;
9. National Consumers' League;
10. National Council Jewish Women;
11. Girls' Friendly Society;
12. Women's Homeopathic Medical Fraternity.

This is two less than opposed us in 1929. Then there were fourteen organizations opposed, now only twelve. The American Association of University Women in 1924 voted not to take action on the recommendation to continue opposition to the Equal Rights amendment, and instead resolved that their committee would not make a controversial report but give suggestions for a continuing study. In January, 1925, the reports of Miss Van Kleek and Miss M. Carey Thomas were presented. Miss Thomas' report was a fine and just presentation of the principle of Equal Rights between men and women. Some of these organizations voted against the amendment years ago, as for instance the General Federation of Women's Clubs took its vote in June, 1924. The Women's Christian Temperance Union did not appear against us at the hearing last January.

ON January 28 we had a hearing before the House Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds in regard to the confiscation of our property for the sake of the Comptroller of the Currency, who needs a building for the Bureau of Accounting. There is no doubt that Mr. McCarl needs the building for the five thousand employees in his bureau, but that he needed our particular city square is very much in question. The Government had other property already acquired not yet allocated and moreover the analogous square on the House side of the Capitol would do just as well and not involve the destruction of any notable building. I want to tell you that this threat was a very real one. Before the hearing Representative R. N. Elliott, chairman, said: "Don't worry, this is going through," and other members warned us not to be disappointed because, they said, Mr. McCarl always gets what he wants. It seems, however, that Mr. McCarl did not really care about the site, as long as he got his building. We want to thank you all for the letters and telegrams of protest you sent. Representative F. W. Dallinger of Massachusetts and Representatives from New York told us that a great many letters and telegrams of protest had been received.

Again, I must give the bulk of the credit for the success of this hearing to Maud Younger and Burnita Matthews, who assembled the data, the arguments and maps, and who summoned tax holders on square 725 to protest. The most telling arguments were letters from Mr. Waddy B. Wood, architect for the State War and Navy Building; Harvey Wiley Corbett, chairman of the Chicago Exposition of 1933; Mr. H. F. Delano, chairman of National Capital Park and Planning Commission, and from Mr. and Mrs. Stephen H. Pell, owners of Fort Ticonderago, all protesting against the demolition of our historic and beautiful headquarters.

During the year we have created valuable new literature, and have had widespread publicity. The Legal Research Department has put out two new leaflets, one on "The Status of Women as Jurors," which has been very helpful in the many State campaigns now under way for woman juror laws; and another entitled, "The Denial of Justice to Women," being an interesting summary of discriminations against women in different sections of the

country. This leaflet has been given wide publicity. Alma Lutz's valuable article, "Shall Woman's Work Be Regulated By Law?" was reprinted from the *Atlantic Monthly Magazine* and distributed from the headquarters. Tables dealing with night work and other phases of restrictive legislation for women have been published in Equal Rights from time to time. From abroad we received word that these tables had been of great value to international group working for equality of opportunity for working women. Hundreds and hundreds of clippings pasted on boards at our headquarters speak eloquently for the splendid publicity obtained by Muna Lee on every phase of Woman's Party activity, by means of her many press releases.

Practically every legislative body in this country has been or will be in session during this year and effective campaigns have been and are being made in many States. Another speaker will take up this phase of the work in detail tomorrow.

With far-seeing vision Mrs. Belmont has always realized the importance of international co-operation in the world-wide struggle for the freedom of women. It is not surprising, therefore, to find her actively participating in the direction of the work which was done at The Hague in April, 1930, and later at Geneva, both by the marvelously generous gifts and her inspirational guidance. She has kept in close touch also with the work at Headquarters making valuable suggestions from time to time with regard to the building itself and with regard to our work here. I am pleased to announce her very great happiness over the success of the dedication of Headquarters, January 4, last.

Of course, in all these activities Miss Paul has been functioning as the chairman of the Nationality Committe of the Inter-American Commission of Women. But it is a victory of our principles in which we rejoice and in her victory as a member of our Council and our leader.

Summarizing the activities of the year we have had—

1. Four Congressional hearings, two on the Cable bill, one on Headquarters, and one on Equal Rights.
2. We have a signal victory in the two amendments to the Cable law of 1922, almost perfecting the married woman's nationality status.
3. Three brilliant achievements abroad.
4. Dedication of Headquarters.
5. Legislative campaign in many of the States.
6. Campaigns against dismissal of women due to unemployment.
7. New literature and wide publicity.

Toward a Better World

Speech of Fanny Bunand-Sevastos, Executive Secetary of the Inter-American Commission of Women, at the dinner held by the National Woman's Party on March 13 at the Copley Plaza Hotel, Boston, Mass., as the concluding event of the New England Regional Conference on "Women and Unemployment"

ALTHOUGH the National Woman's Party is a national organization, few people realize how much international work has been done by it. Since the creation of the Inter-American Commission of Women, the international work of the National Woman's Party has been so closely interwoven with the work of the Commission, that it is difficult to recount the work of one without telling you of the work of the other. With leaders like Doris Stevens and Alice Paul, who have been for years and are still an integral part of the Woman's Party, there is, indeed, nothing surprising that both organizations should be walking in the same path internationally.

You will recall that the Inter-American Commission of Women is the daughter of the Woman's Party. In 1928, it was as chairman of the Committee on International Action of the Woman's Party that Doris Stevens presented the Equal Rights Treaty to the Sixth Pan-American Conference at Havana. This campaign resulted in the creation by the Conference of the Inter-American Commission of Women. The Commission is to be composed of one representative from each republic of the Pan-American Union appointed by their respective governments. Its work is to study and advise concerning the international position of women.

The Hague Codification Conference, held a year ago this month was to deal with the subject of nationality, including ours. And so the Inter-American Commission of Women undertook as its first subject of research, the nationality of women. During the years 1928-1929, an exhaustive study of the nationality laws of all the countries of the world, as they affect women, was made by the Nationality Committee of the Inter-American Commission of Women under the very learned direction of Alice Paul, chairman of the committee. The Commission found the nationality laws of almost all the countries of the world, cruelly unfair to women. In order to abolish in the quickest way possible these existing discriminations, and prevent future ones with respect to nationality, the following treaty was unanimously adopted by the first conference of the Inter-American Commission of Women, held in Havana, February, 1930. "The contracting parties agree, that from the going into effect of this treaty there shall be no distinction based on sex in their law and practice relating to nationality." This treaty had been previously endorsed by the Executive Board of the American Institute of International law; by the Woman's Party and by innumerable organizations in this country and by the Six Point Group of Great Britain. This treaty was to be our gift to the new world law and Miss Stevens, chairman of the Commission, was empowered to present it to The Hague Codification Conference.

At The Hague Conference the Commission and the National Woman's Party formed a joint committee with one headquarters to work for favorable acceptance of the principle of equality as embodied in this draft treaty.

Great odds were against us from the very beginning in trying to get our gift accepted. On one side were the delegates of forty-seven nations armed with the full powers of their governments. On the other side were women whose only weapons were their own convictions and their belief in the justice of their demands.

These distinguished gentlemen were preparing to launch the first part of a world code. The nationality rights of women was undoubtedly the most important question before the conference, for it was the only one which clearly affected the rights of human beings as such. Now the enlightened course one would think would be to pitch the standard of this proposed world law to the best national laws now in existence: the laws which give men and women complete equality in this matter. But that was not what the men at The Hague had set out to do. Even before the conference met, they had drawn up proposed drafts which sanctioned the existing laws containing discrimination against women. It was to prevent these proposals from being crystalized into world law that women went to The Hague. Ever since preparations for this conference were begun by the League of Nations the great International Women's organizations had been making plans to combat this danger. Meetings were held in London, Paris, Berlin, Washington, Madrid, Geneva and elsewhere. Always the demand was the same. Women wanted equal treatment and security with men in their nationality. We were a tiny knot of women at The Hague. Doris Stevens and Marta Vergara of Chile representing the Inter-American Commission of Women; Margaret Whittemore, Ella Riegel, Lucy Branham, from the National Woman's Party; Simone Tery, a French Feminist, and myself.

At the Commission's request Miguel Cruchaga, delegate from Chile, introduced before The Hague Conference the Nationality Treaty to which I have already referred. And after much persuasion, the Nationality Committee of the Conference accorded women one hour to make

their demands known to the delegates.

The following day, with lightning speed, the nations proceeded to vote on these clauses which were unjust to women. The deliberations, you understand, were secret. However, we learned that more than twenty sessions had been devoted to men's nationality. Part of two sessions were now devoted to ours.

Despairing of breaking through the encrusted tradition of the Old World, we decided to concentrate all our efforts on the United States delegation. At least we must make very sure that the United States did not sign the convention.

While we were at The Hague the same united action between the National Woman's Party and the Commission was taking place in this country. Under the brilliant and devoted leadership of Alice Paul, beloved of women the world over, women were conducting a magnificent campaign. They had made known to President Hoover, to the State Department, and to the United States Senate, American women's insistence that the United States support equal nationality rights, or else demand that no action at all be taken at this Conference. No law would leave us in our present position. Bad law would have to be undone. Enough Senators declared themselves in support of our position to throw doubt on the Senate's ratification. You know the result. When the final roll was called the United States cast the solitary vote against the nationality convention as drawn up. The vote was forty nations to one.

Nevertheless, The Hague convention was signed by thirty nations and ready for ratification by them, and open to adherence by other countries. The Commission then decided to endeavor to prevent ratification of the convention. From our Headquarters in Washington letters were sent to our Commissioners, asking them to act upon their respective governments to oppose ratification. In pursuit of this plan also, Alice Paul went to Geneva. She opened headquarters of the Inter-American Commission of Women and a new campaign was launched. Other international and national organizations of women, including the National Woman's Party, joined the Inter-American Commission of Women. As a result of their combined efforts Dr. Ferrara, of Cuba, introduced before the Assembly, a resolution asking for reconsideration of the question. This resolution was attached to the report on codification adopted by the Assembly, which adjourned the whole question of codification to the 1931 Assembly, and which resolution is now before governments awaiting suggestions on this point to be submitted to the next Assembly.

In January, 1931, another appeal was made by the women, this time to the Council of the League, to make sure that women's nationality should be reopened by the 1931 Assembly, and that there should be included in this discussion the point of view of women, expressed through a committee of women, elected by international organizations of women. The three Latin-American delegates on the Council, M. Matos of Guatemala, Barreto of Peru and Zumeta of Venezuela, led the fight for this, and the Council adopted a resolution to this end. This resolution put the subject of the nationality of women on the agenda of the next Assembly, and empowered the Secretary General of the League to create a committee of women, composed of two members from each of the leading international women's organizations, to report the views of women upon this subject to the next Assembly. And I am happy to say that the Inter-American Commission of Women received its invitation a few days ago—and that the first meeting of this committee is to take place next month.

This is the first time in the eleven years of its existence that the League has created an advisory committee of women. We are proud that in doing so, it used as a precedent, the creation of the Inter-American Commission of Women by the Sixth Pan-American Conference.

WE are especially proud that the Latin-American delegates stood so steadfast in the face of a great deal of opposition from their colleagues. For example, Mr. Henderson of Great Britain, who was presiding at the Council, was resolutely opposed to bringing up this resolution. In the face of the opposition of the chairman it was very difficult for the Latin Americans to proceed. Realizing this, the women at Geneva notified their colleagues in London of Mr. Henderson's opposition, whereupon he received over two hundred cables from his women back home. Miss Paul also asked him to receive a deputation of the women in Geneva. When it seemed likely that his opposition would get to the press, if he did not abandon it, he sent his secretary to our headquarters to say, that there must have been some mistake; Mr. Henderson was not opposed. Had it not been for the women's pressure, as well as the Latin American's insistance, this resolution would never have been adopted.

I think you will be interested to know that the three Latin Americans on the Council were joined by the representatives of Persia and Japan. The support of these two additional members was gained through the help of the All-Asian Women's Conference, which fortunately was meeting in Lahore, India, at the same moment, and with which Miss Paul was in cable communication. And so it was accomplished.

While what has been done since the nationality convention was adopted at The Hague, may not be sufficient to prevent ratification, time has been gained, reconsideration secured, and above all, women, the persons who disapprove of the inequality in the convention, the ones who suffer inequality, are to be consulted. And at least to date, no nation has completed ratification of the convention.

Since you last met in conference two other important international events have taken place. As you know, the National Woman's Party has affiliated to the Open Door International, an international organization for the sole purpose of seeing that equality in industry is written into international agreements which affect the status of men and women in this department of life. This organization was brought into being by the initiative of the British women.

The other event to which I refer is the creation within the past year of a new organization known as "The Equal Rights International." This organization which hopes to embrace representatives from all the important women's organizations in the world, and which the National Woman's Party has been invited to join, will concentrate mainly on getting adopted as a separate treaty, or getting embodied in the Covenant of the League of Nations, the Equal Rights Treaty, which was laid before the Sixth Pan-American Conference by the Committee on International Action of the National Woman's Party. This treaty reads as follows: "The contracting States agree, that upon ratification of this treaty, men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the territory subject to their respective jurisdiction."

This is the ultimate goal of all organizations in the world which believe in equality before the law.

The Equal Rights International was formed in Geneva. In all these undertakings Miss Alice Paul and Mrs. Belmont, president of the National Woman's Party, have taken an active and vital part. In fact, but for Mrs. Belmont's intense interest in our international work, manifest in her leadership and in her financial support, much of our recent work would have been impossible.

To sum up, women are now alert to the rapid advance of furthering better human relations in the world by international action. We must see to it that new international agreements do not repeat the same stupid mistakes which have been made since the beginning of time in our international laws. Difficult as it is to tend both gardens at once, the national and the international, we can not do one to the exclusion of the other. If we do not go beyond the national horizon, while we are tending our gardens in our own separate countries, unequal laws will be written internationally and our work in our individual countries will be destroyed.

And so while we have attacked the question of our nationality at the fountain-

head, namely, at the Codification Conference at The Hague, and while we are still endeavoring to see that this unsatisfactory convention, now repudiated by women's organizations everywhere in the world, is not ratified, we want you to realize that we are attacking not only this one unequal convention. We are doing more than that. We are in effect saying to the men in power throughout the world who are charged with international affairs, that we shall oppose any and all attempts to write a code of world law which discriminates against women. Those of our activities which lately have had to take unfortunately the form of opposition, have stood as a symbol of healthy protest by women everywhere that such a code shall not flourish. The pity of it is that this protest would never have been necessary if men had consulted the wishes of women before they acted.

Towards a better world for women internationally, the Inter-American Commission of Women and the National Woman's Party have joined hands to give the utmost of their limited capacities.

Press Comment

"But She's a Woman"

Daily Times, Washington, D. C., March 18, 1931.

SINCE 1862, when the first woman was put on the payroll of the Federal Government, women workers — and the policies of the Government as an employer— have made long strides forward.

There are 89,000 women now on the Federal payroll and they are guaranteed by law equal pay with men for equal work and the opportunity to participate in all civil service examinations.

Although this is true, Miss Mary Anderson, director of the Women's Bureau of the Department of Labor, says that "women in Uncle Sam's employ are still in many instances discriminated against in appointments despite definite proof of their ability to perform many types of work as well as men do."

Changed economic conditions have made it imperative that women work. And there is no reason why they should not and no reason why those who can do so should not work on equal terms with men. When the great Federal employer rids itself of actual as well as legal discriminations against women its example will do a great deal to improve their lot elsewhere.

Guardianship Bill Endorsed

Knickerbocker Press, Albany, N. Y., March 19, 1931.

TWENTY States have given fathers and mothers Equal Rights to the earnings and services of their minor children. Mrs. Lieber Whittic of Syracuse, State chairman of the National Woman's Party, said yesterday at the hearing on the Mastick-Graves Equal Guardianship bill before the Assembly Judiciary Committee.

"This bill was passed in the Senate at the last five sessions," Mrs. Whittic said, expressing the hope that the Assembly committee would pave the way for a favorable vote in the lower house.

Endorsements of the measure by numerous judges, including Townsend Scudder, Leon C. Rhodes, Otto A. Rosalsky, Sheldon L. Close, Harold F. Porter, Parker F. Scripture and Leo H. Yehle were laid before the committee.

"This bill," Mrs. Whittic said, "recognizes the equal natural rights of a mother as parent to act as guardian of her child. Several bills based upon the principle of equal guardianship have been enacted by the New York Legislature in recent years.

"The present measure, if passed, will practically complete the equal guardianship law in this State."

Mrs. Rhoda Fox Graves, member of the Assembly from St. Lawrence County, cosponsor of the bill, said it would tend to keep the home together. Other speakers included Mrs. Miriam Albee Schindler, vice-chairman of the Albany County Republican Committee; Mrs. William H. Ives, representing the women's division of the Republican State Committee, and Mrs. Emily Grace K. Long of Albany.

Assemblyman William L. Macy, Jr., of Buffalo, suggested that a bill be brought in embodyng all necessary changes to remove inequalities from the present laws. Assemblyman Edmund B. Jenks, judiciary chairman, presided. No opposiiton was voiced to the bill.

Danish Feminist in Washington

HENNI FORCHHAMMER, delegate from Denmark to the Assembly of the League of Nations since Denmark has been a member of the League, who made the ringing plea for equality in nationality conventions before the Assembly last October, was guest of honor at several functions in Washington over the past week-end.

The National Woman's Party entertained her at tea at Alva Belmont House on March 21. The American Association of University Women entertained in her honor at dinner on March 20, and the National Woman's Party had a table at the dinner.

The Minister of Denmark and Madame Wadsted entertained in honor of Mlle. Forchhammer and Agnete Bertram, another distinguished Danish woman, at dinner on March 22. The Women's Joint Congressional Committee entertained Mlle. Forchhammer at luncheon on March 21st.

At the dinner on March 20 Mlle. Forchhammer told of her work at the League of Nations and of the part women play at the League recounting all too briefly the work she did for equality in internatonal agreements on nationality of women.

Mrs. Raymond Morgan introduced her as "a fellow-Feminist" and as "a representative of one of the most progressive nations in giving women equality." Mrs. Morgan spoke of the practice Denmark has had from the beginning of sending Mlle. Forchhammer to the League of Nations. The first year only the three Scandanavian countries—Norway, Sweden and Denmark—sent women delegates, but now fourteen women represent thirteen nations in the Assembly. Mlle. Forchhammer was the first woman to speak in the Assembly.

Commenting upon the fact that England had sent two women to the League at its last session Mlle. Forchhammer said that previously a nation thought it had done all that could be expected if it had risen to the height of sending one woman, and had taken it for granted that one woman was enough. In response to a question, she said that the women delegates to the League rarely unite on any question, the delegates dividing rather by nations than by sexes, but that they all joined to combat a proposal made by Cuba to force all women traveling alone to carry certificates from their governments showing previous good behavior. The women delegates, she said, joined unanimously to prevent such interference with women's personal liberties.

She spoke of the difficulties of having women placed on important committees of the League, and of the tendency to forget to replace a woman with another woman.

"I must say that this is not unusual. The men will forget if they are not reminded," she said, and added, amidst understanding laughter, that doubtless the women of the United States had noticed this tendency.

She also said, when questioned, that there is a tendency to displace women in the Secretariat with men, but asserted that this is partly explained by the fact that most of the women leaders are from the larger countries, and that the larger countries cannot get any more persons appointed to the League, while it is diffi-

cult to find the qualified and experienced women in the smaller countries.

For the first time she was asked last fall to go on the first committee, which handled nationality and other juridical questions, but when the names of members were read, her name was not there. She sat in the committee, but did not speak in it. Not having had her say in the committee, she felt she must speak in the Assembly on this subject, since the women's organizations are united on it. The result was that the League postponed action on the proposed nationality conventoins adopted at The Hague pending study by the governments, recommended by The Hague conference, on the question of embodying the principle of equality between the sexes in nationality law and custom. At the same time the League invited the women's organizations to form a committee to consult with the League on the nationality question. Her speech she said, was the shortest in the Assembly last year, but American women and women all over the world know that it was one of the most important and effective, even if her modesty prevented her talking about it.

The work of women with men on League of Nations matters, she believes, has led the nations that are more backward as far as Equal Rights are concerned, to accept the idea of equality with less prejudice.

"The idea of women as comrades was a new idea to some of them," Mlle. Forchhammer said, "and I think it was an education to some of those men. Co-operation of men and women in Geneva may help gain equality in many countries."

One of the men present at the dinner asked Mlle. Forchhammer to explain the gold medal she was wearing, saying, "We are not accustomed to seeing anybody but generals and admirals wear medals often in this country."

The small woman seemed slightly embarrassed and explained a little diffidently that the King of Denmark had sent it to her and that it had the King's portrait on one side and something that means "Deserved" or "Merited" on the other side.

"I don't really know why he sent it to me," she said. "He did not explain. Maybe it was because I had been eighteen years president of the Danish National Council of Women, or maybe my work at the Lague of Nations had something to do with it."

At the Woman's Party tea the work of women of all countries for equality in nationality laws and agreements was discussed in more detail, and members, officers and friends of the Party were introduced to Mlle. Forchhammer.

News from the Field

Tea at Alva Belmont House

THE District of Columbia Branch of the National Woman's Party gave a tea, which was its first meeting of the spring, at Alva Belmont House on Sunday, March 22. Mrs. Harvey W. Wiley, national chairman, and Muna Lee, director of national activities, gave a general review of what has been accomplished with regard to Equal Rights during the winter.

Congressional and nation-wide activities were reported on in detail, and an account of the Woman's Party Conference held at Boston on March 12-13 was given.

Mrs. Paul M. Linebarger, District chairman of the Woman's Party, was hostess for the afternoon, assisted by the members of the District Council.

Alva Belmont House is the National Woman's Party headquarters, which was successfully defended by members of the Party all over the country when a proposal for its being purchased and torn down to make way for Government buildings came before Congress last month.

Madame Wu, wife of the Chinese Minister, presided at the tea table, assisted by Virginia White Speel, Mrs. Edgar Merritt and Mrs. O. L. Veerhoff. They likewise discussed Feminist activities.

Brazilian Women to Hold Congress

THE Brazilian Federation for the Advancement of Women is preparing the second Feminist Congress of Brazil. The aim of this is to have women state their demands in the way of reforms and legislation, in the general reorganizations of Brazil. The idea came from Dr. Alzira Reis, a woman doctor and president of the State Association in Minas. Dr. Bertha Lutz, leader of the Feminist movement, and Mrs. Maria Eugenia Celso, one of the most distinguished poets and writers, will draft the call. Education, welfare, legislation, conditions of work for women, literature, art, music, science and sports will have their place in the program. An exhibition of appliances for the simplification of housework will be held jointly.

Women to Vote in Brazil

THE Brazilian revolutionary government has announced that the new election laws to be drafted will allow women to register as voters. The Federal Constitution, which is still in force, says that all Brazilian citizens who are not illiterate, who have an income, and who are not soldiers or members of religious communities with a vow of obedience, may vote. It also states that all those born in Brazil are Brazilian citizens.

The way was paved for this interpretation by Dr. Juvenal Lamartina, who as Governor of Rio Grande do Norte, granted women the vote in his State on the strength of the Federal Constitution. Following his example, women were registered as voters in several other States. A trial case, brought before the court that rules election matters in the State of Rio de Janeiro, led that court to rule that women can legally qualify as voters.

Ida Husted Harper

IDA HUSTED HARPER, suffragist and historian of a part of the suffrage movement, died in Washington, D. C., on March 14 following an illness of two months resulting from a stroke of paralysis.

Born in Fairfield, Indiana, Mrs. Harper devoted her life to helping win suffrage for women, to journalistic activities, and to lecturing. She was the author of "The Life and Work of Susan B. Anthony" and one of the authors of the three-volume, "History of Woman Suffrage," Miss Anthony and Carrie Chapman Catt being her collaborators.

Mrs. Harper edited departments in *Harper's Bazaar* and in the New York *Sun*. She wrote for many magazines and newspapers.

Since 1904 she has been delegate and speaker at the European meetings of the International Council of Women and the International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship, formerly the International Woman Suffrage Alliance. She attended sessions of these organizations in London, Berlin, Copenhagen, Amsterdam, The Hague, Paris, Geneva, Budapest, and Rome.

She is survived by her daughter, Winifred Harper Cooley of New York.

Japanese Feminist Writes

MRS. O. H. P. BELMONT, president of the National Woman's Party, sends the following letter which she received from a Japanese Feminist for publication in our columns:

5 Kojimachi 4 Chome,
Kojimachi-Ku, Tokyo,
29th Jan., 1931.

Dear Madam:

Hearty thanks for the three books of "Jailed for Freedom." Miss Fujita is translating it into Japanese. We publish it in our organ, *Fusen*. I will send you a copy so as you may look at it.

The Diet is in session and the municipal suffrage bill for women is to be proposed by the Government. I hope it will pass the both Houses this year. We are doing our best.

Yours sincerely,
FUSAE ICHIKAWA.

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